

IN THE APPLICATION
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FOR A
PORTABLE PROJECT BAG KIT

PORTABLE PROJECT BAG KIT

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5 This application is a continuation-in-part of application serial number 10/218,494 filed on August 16, 2002, which is incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION

15 The present invention relates to portable carrying cases for sewing and knitting materials, fishing paraphernalia, and the like. More particularly, the inventive carrying case includes removable and interchangeable object-holding pockets, inserts, and pouches, which are held in place by strips of hook and loop fastener material.

20 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

25 The use of foldable, portable cases for carrying small items is well known. However, none have the combination of removable, detachable pockets and inserts using hook-and-loop fastener strips as well as a mesh area on one of the internal surfaces of the case for holding elongated objects. Moreover, none teach the particular multi-pocket structure used as a removable insert.

 The related art is represented by the following references of interest.

U.S. Patent No. 4,069,955, issued on to Noyes on January 24, 1978, describes a carrying pouch for a cardiac telemonitor transmitter unit that includes a pair of ribbon tie strips by which the carrier may be affixed about the neck and chest of a cardiac patient to secure the transmitter against artifact generating movement. A seam vest in the pouch permits ready access to the contact lead coupling means on the transmitter.

U.S. Patent No. 4,296,945, issued to Pavlik on October 27, 1981, teaches a foldable pocket secretary having removable internal members, e.g., a removable notebook. The closure flap uses hook-and-loop fastener material.

U.S. Patent No. 4,566,130, issued to Coates on January 21, 1986, teaches a combination carrying bag for carrying diapers and infant accessories. Hook-and-loop fastener material is used to secure removable pockets inside the bag.

U.S. Patent No. 4,848,562, issued to Liu on July 18, 1989, teaches a pin collector bag having several pockets for holding small items.

U.S. Patent No. 5,865,314, issued to Jacober on February 2, 1999, teaches a case for carrying medical supplies that includes an outer zipper.

U.S. Patent No. 6,012,557, issued to Derelanko on January 11, 2000, describes a carry bag system in which the handle of a case fits through an elongated slot on the flap of an accessory bag having one ore more compartments for storing articles placed therein, with the accessory bag draping over one of the sides

while being transported about as a single unit by virtue of the carry handle. A series of straps and buckle-snap arrangements are described to further secure the accessory bag carried by the case with either or both accessory bags being additionally detachable from the combination to allow independent carrying thereof to conferences, meetings, and seminars without having to carry the entire combination together.

U.S. Patent No. 6,095,213, issued to Roegner on August 1, 2000, describes an organizing case for articles that can be carried as a clutch, or small shoulder bag, or in a purse. The carrying case includes a generally rectangular primary panel having an inner and an outer face that is folded along a selected transverse line forming a front panel and a back panel with the inner face defining a primary receptacle. A pocket assembly and an inner mounting panel are pivotally mounted inside the primary receptacle. A movable cover is shaped to envelop the case so that the case can be carried as a purse.

U.S. Patent No. 6,193,118 B1, issued to Kearn on February 27, 2001, teaches an organizer including various pockets to hold different sizes and amounts of small objects.

U.S. Patent No. 6,296,094 B1, issued to Knecht on October 2, 2001, describes a travel bag that includes a pair of flaps. The flaps fold with respect to each other to lay flat or can be positioned to lie adjacent with respect to each other as would be used in a travel bag. Each flap also has at least one sub-flap that enables similar orientation with respect to its respective

flap. This combination enables the bag to be positioned flat as it would be if hung open, folded in half as a travel/garment bag or folded to one-quarter size as a travel carryon item or even smaller with additional sub-flaps. The bag can also include a series of pockets.

Great Britain Patent Application Publication No. 2,061,712, published on May 20, 1981, describes a carrying bag including an outer zipper and several internal pockets, one of the internal layers being held in place using a hook-and-loop fastener material.

None of the above inventions and patents, taken either singularly or in combination, is seen to describe the instant invention as claimed. Thus a portable carrying case solving the aforementioned problems is desired.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is a portable project bag kit. The portable project bag kit includes a large project bag, a small project bag, and a stand. The large project bag has an inside, an outside, and an opening. The large project bag has a pair of carrying handles and a pair of tabs attached near the opening of the large project bag, and a closure mechanism sewn within a top edge of the large project bag near the opening of the large project bag. Male and female snaps may be placed at the outside, bottom corners of the large project bag, and be configured for

snapping together. When the snaps are snapped together, a base is formed for the large project bag to sit upright, with or without the stand. The second project bag also has a closure mechanism sewn within a top edge of the second project bag near the opening of the small project bag. The closure mechanism of each project bag is formed of a concave metal and is configured to make the each project bag easy to open and close, and to securely hold contents of the associated project bag when the project bag is turned upside down.

A pouch is sewn inside the large project bag. The pouch is made of mesh, allowing the user to weave or hook various tools into the pouch for storage. At least one strip of hook-and-loop fastening material is attached to the inside of the large project bag. A mesh layer lining is permanently attached to the inside of the large project bag for removably retaining an elongated object. At least one strip of hook-and-loop fastening material is attached to the mesh layer lining, and the mesh layer lining is disposed between the inside of the large project bag and the at least one strip.

The small project bag includes a closure mechanism sewn within a top edge of the small project bag near the opening of the small project bag. The closure mechanism of the small project bag is formed of a concave metal and is configured to make the small project bag easy to open and close, and to securely hold contents of the small project bag when the second project bag is turned upside down. The closure mechanism of the large project bag and

the closure mechanism of the small project bag may each be formed of steel.

5 The stand supports the large project bag. The stand includes a top piece of rigid material with three apertures defined through the top piece, a bottom piece of rigid material with one aperture defined through the bottom piece, two poles configured to be removably placed in two of the three apertures on the top piece of the stand, and a pivotal fastening device configured to pivotally attach the top piece to the bottom piece. The top piece and bottom piece are pivotally attached to each other and configured to rotate outward to a 't' shape, creating a sturdy stand for the large project bag, and preventing the large project bag from tipping over. The top and bottom pieces are each made of wood or similar durable material. The two poles may each be made of fiberglass.

10 Accordingly, it is a principal object of the invention to provide a portable project bag kit including a large project bag with an inside, an outside, and an opening. The large project bag has a pair of carrying handles and a pair of tabs attached near the opening of the large project bag, and a closure mechanism sewn within a top edge of the large project bag near the opening of the large project bag. The closure mechanism is formed of a concave metal and is configured to make the large project bag easy to open and close, and securely holds contents of the large project bag when the large project bag is turned upside down.

It is another object of the invention to provide a portable project bag kit with pouch sewn inside the large project bag. The pouch is made of mesh, allowing the user to weave or hook various tools into the pouch for storage. At least one strip of hook-and-loop fastening material is attached to the inside of the large project bag. A mesh layer lining is permanently attached to the inside of the large project bag for removably retaining an elongated object. At least one strip of hook-and-loop fastening material is attached to the mesh layer lining, and the mesh layer lining is disposed between the inside of the large project bag and at least one strip of the hook-and-loop fastening material.

It is an object of the invention to provide improved elements and arrangements thereof for the purposes described which is inexpensive, dependable and fully effective in accomplishing its intended purposes.

These and other objects of the present invention will become readily apparent upon further review of the following specification and drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is an environmental, perspective view of a portable small-article carrying case according to the present invention.

Fig. 2 is an environmental, perspective view of a second embodiment of a small-article carrying case according to the present invention.

Fig. 3A shows the portable case of Fig. 1 unfolded and with all inserts removed.

Fig. 3B shows a front view of an external pouch for the portable case of Fig. 1.

5 Fig. 3C shows a perspective view of a single-pocket insert for the portable case of Fig. 1.

Figs. 4A, 4B, and 4C show a multi-pocket insert in various stages of formation.

10 Figs. 5A and 5B show the interior including inserts for the embodiment of Fig. 2.

Figs 6A, 6B, 6C, 6D, and 6E show various pieces that are assembled to form the elongated multi-pocket pouch insert for use in the embodiment of Fig. 2.

15 Fig. 7 shows a perspective view of a portable project bag kit according to the present invention.

Fig. 8 shows a front view of the large project bag that is part of the portable carrying bag kit shown in Fig. 7.

Fig. 9A shows a cross sectional view along the lines 9A-9A of the large project bag shown in Fig. 8.

20 Fig. 9B shows a cross sectional view along the lines 9B-9B of the large project bag shown in Fig. 8.

Fig. 10 shows a front view of the small project bag that is part of the portable carrying bag kit shown in Fig. 7.

Fig. 11 shows an exploded view of the stand that is part of the portable project bag kit shown in Fig. 7.

Similar reference characters denote corresponding features consistently throughout the attached drawings.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The present invention is a portable carrying case having various detachable, replaceable inserts, and a portable project bag kit.

As shown in Fig. 1, carrying case 100 has two main panels 14 and 16, in which panel 14 can be folded into parallel relationship with panel 16. Flap 12 is used to close the case 100 using hook-fastener strip 20 that attaches to a corresponding loop-fastener strip on the outside of panel 14. Two spines are used to form hinges 40, one spine being disposed between panel 14 and panel 16, and the other spine being disposed between panel 16 and flap 12. The inside surface of panel 14 of the case 100 is provided with a mesh material, e.g., netting 36, to hold elongated objects, such as knitting needles.

An alternative embodiment of the carrying case, designated as 200, is shown in Fig. 2. In this embodiment, the carrying case 200 is formed by panels 212 and 214 and is somewhat larger than that shown in Fig. 1, in order to hold larger objects, such as longer sewing needles. Panels 212 and 214 fold about a spine

and are secured in a closed position by zipper 50, which extends about three sides of the perimeter of case 200. Elongated multi-pocket insert 60 provides nine individual elongated pockets for holding long needles and is removably attached to hook-fastener strip 62. Multi-pocket inserts 42, 44, and 46 are likewise attached to their corresponding hook-fastener strips using corresponding loop-fastener strips located along their edges. The embodiment of Fig. 2 will be discussed in more detail later.

In the version shown in Fig. 1, the case 100 includes four inserts: multi-pocket pouch inserts 22 and 24, single pocket insert 26, and single-ply insert 28. Single-ply insert 28 has a fleece backing for holding darning needles, pins, and other articles that may be hooked into the fleece. All four inserts are removably attached to the inside of the case 100 using a loop-fastener strip that fastens to a corresponding hook-fastener strip inside the case. An external pocket or pouch 30 is attached to the case 100 using ribbons 32 and 34 that wrap around panel 16 of the case 100. The opening of the single pocket insert 26 is closed using corresponding strips of hook-and-loop fastener material. The two ribbon loops 38 are used to grip and thereby open the insert 26 to place small objects inside.

Figs. 3A, 3B, and 3C show a view of the interior of the three-panel case 100 with only the external pouch 30 attached (no inserts attached) as seen with the case 100 unfolded, a front view

of the external pouch 30 detached from the case 100, and a perspective view of the single-pocket insert pouch 26, respectively.

In Fig. 3A, three hook-fastener strips, 92, 94, and 96, are used for fastening the various inserts in place. An additional hook-fastener strip 20 is used to close the flap 12 by attaching to a corresponding loop-fastener strip (not shown) on the outside of panel 14 along its free edge.

The external pouch 30, shown in Fig. 3B, is mounted onto the back of panel 16 of the case 100 by ribbons 32 and 34. The external pouch 30 contains a pocket that is closed using paired strips of hook-and-loop fastener material lining the sides of its opening. Grip ribbons 98 permit the user to open the external pouch 30 to place objects inside.

The insert pouch 26 shown in Fig. 3C is similarly opened and closed using paired strips of hook-and-loop fastener material 54 lining the sides of its opening. Grip ribbons 38 are used to open the insert pouch 26. A strip of loop fastener material 52 is provided along the lower outside margin of the insert pouch 26 for attachment to a corresponding hook fastener material 96 inside the case 100.

The case 100 also provides for an inventive multi-pocket pouch 22 that is constructed from a single sheet of textile material as shown in Figs. 4A-4C. The multi-pocket pouch 22 is

structured to be stitched in a particular manner to obtain a staggered layering of pockets. Initially, the multi-pocket pouch 22 is an elongated sheet of fabric having a strip of loop-type fastener material 110 attached near a corner. The sheet is first folded longitudinally along fold-line 118 and stitched together along the bottom and side edges of its perimeter 120 to form the structure shown in Fig. 4B. The structure of Fig. 4B is then folded in alternative directions, with either a single row, or a very closely parallel pair of rows, of stitches at 116 to define the bottom of the three pockets, and two parallel, spaced apart pairs of rows of stitches at 112 and 114, with the pair of rows at 114 being spaced apart wider than the pair of rows at 112, in order to obtain the structure of overlapping pockets shown in plan view in Fig. 4C, in which the strip of loop fastener material 110 ultimately appears on the outer surface of edge 130 that protrudes the farthest, edges 132 being opposite fastener strip 110. Fastener strip 110 may be attached either to upper hook fastener strip 92, or to medial hook fastener strip 94, as desired, with the pockets opening laterally. Removable pocket insert 24 is prepared in the same manner as pocket insert 22.

Details of the second embodiment of the carrying case 200 are shown in Figs. 5A-5B and 6A-6E. In this embodiment, the case 200 includes permanently attached carrying handles 82 and 84 and five hook-type fastener strips, e.g., 204 and 206, to which the inserts

can be detachably fastened. Insert pouches 42, 44, and 46, can be single or multi-pocket pouches constructed in the same fashion as pocket inserts 22 and 24, or single-layer two-sided sheets, each attached using a corresponding loop-type fastener strip. Panel 214 includes a permanently attached mesh layer 80 for attaching elongated objects.

Dual-pocket insert pouch 70 is also attached to the strip of hook-type fastener material inside panel 214. Grip ribbons 72 and 74 permit the user to open either end of the dual pocket insert to place objects inside. Pouch 70 is formed from a single piece of square fabric by folding the sheet in half and stitching the elongated edges together to form a sleeve. A strip of hook and loop fastening material is connected to the sleeve by a double row of stitches 76 and 78 (seen in Fig. 2) extending transversely across the middle of the sleeve to define two pockets, which open in opposite directions. The strip of hook and loop fastening material on the sleeve is used to removably attach the dual-pocket insert pouch 70 to a mating strip of hook and loop fastening material on the inside surface of panel 214.

Finally, elongated multi-pocket pouch insert 60 is usable in the carrying case of the second embodiment. The construction of this pouch insert is shown in Figs. 6A-6E. Layers 302, 304, 306, and 308 are stacked from top to bottom in size order with the shortest on top and longest in the bottom, stitched together along three sides, and then stitched together along the longitudinal

stitch lines 310. The final structure is shown in Fig. 6E showing the tops of the pockets along edges 320. Elongated objects such as knitting needles can be inserted in these pockets. Also, a strip of material 330 including one side (on the rear) having a loop-type fastening material is attached to bottom layer 308 to permit the multi-pocket pouch 60 to be detachably fastened to the center strip of hook-type material 204, as shown in Fig. 5B. The rear surface of layer 308 may have a fleece backing similar to that of single ply insert 28 for securing objects that may be hooked into the fleece.

The material used to form the cases 100 and 200 can be any available textile material, such as cloth or drapery material. Also, the hook-type fastening strips and the corresponding loop-type fastening strips described above can be switched provided that all strips inside the case for attaching the inserts are the same and all strips on the surfaces of the inserts are the same and can be fastened to the corresponding strips inside the case.

A portable project bag kit 400 is illustrated in Figs. 7 through 11. The portable project bag kit 400 includes a large project bag 410, a small project bag 450, and a stand 460 (see Fig. 11) for supporting the large project bag 410. Both bags 410 and 450 can be used for the storage and carrying of craft items and accessories, such as knitting, needlepoint, sewing, jewelry, beading, quilting, embroidery, crocheting, and other artisan and

craftsman projects. In addition, the bags 410 and 450 can be used for the storage and carrying of fishing items, camping items, household items, garage items, shop items, etc.

5 The large project bag 410 has an inside, an outside, and an opening. The large project bag 410 has a pair of carrying handles 412 and 414 attached near the opening of the large project bag 410, a pair of tabs 416 attached near the opening of the first project bag 410, and a closure mechanism 420 sewn within a top edge of the first project bag 410 near the opening of the first project bag 410. The closure mechanism 420 is formed of a concave metal and is configured to make the first project bag 410 easy to open and close, and to securely hold contents of the first project bag 410 when the first project bag is turned upside down. The large bag 410 may also include male and female snaps 422 and 424 placed at the outside, bottom corners of the bag 410, and be configured for snapping together. When the snaps 422 and 424 are snapped together, a base is formed for the bag 410 to sit upright, with or without the stand 460. This also allows the user to release the snaps 422 and 424, providing additional storage or carrying space in the bag 410, or for the user to fold the bag 410 flat when empty and not in use.

As shown in Figs. 9A and 9B, a pouch 442 is sewn inside the large project bag 410 for the storage of small items or accessory pouches from the above described portable carrying cases. The

pouch 442 is made of mesh 444, allowing the user to weave or hook various tools into the pouch 442 for storage. At least one strip of hook-and-loop fastening material is attached to the inside of the large project bag 410. A mesh layer lining 430 is permanently
5 attached to the inside of the large project bag 410 for removably retaining an elongated object. Insert pouches 446 can be single or multi-pocket pouches constructed in the same fashion as pocket inserts 22 and 24 described above, or single-layer two-sided sheets, each attached to a corresponding loop-type fastener strip.

10 At least one strip of hook-and-loop fastening material 432,440 is attached to the mesh layer lining, and the mesh layer lining 430 is disposed between the inside of the large project bag 410 and the at least one strip 432,440.

The portable project bag kit 400 includes a small project
15 bag 450 with a closure mechanism 452 sewn within a top edge of the small project bag 450 near the opening of the small project bag 450. The closure mechanism 452 of the small project bag 450 is formed of a concave metal and is configured to make the small project bag 450 easy to open and close, and to securely hold
20 contents of the small project bag 450 when the small project bag 450 is turned upside down. The closure mechanism 420 of the large project bag 410 and the closure mechanism 452 of the small project bag 450 may each be formed of steel.

5 The portable project bag kit 400 also includes a stand 460 to support the large project bag 410 (see Fig. 11). The stand 460 includes a top piece 470 of rigid material with three apertures 472 and 474 defined through the top piece 470, a bottom piece 462 of rigid material with one aperture 476 defined through the bottom piece 462, two poles 482 configured to be removably placed in two of the three apertures 472 on the top piece 470 of the stand 460, and a pivotal fastening device 480 configured to pivotally attach the top piece 470 to the bottom piece 462. The top piece 470 and bottom piece 462 are pivotally attached to each other and configured to rotate outward to a 't' shape, creating a sturdy stand for the large project bag 410, and preventing the large project bag 410 from tipping over. The top and bottom pieces 470 and 462 are each made of wood or similar durable material. The two poles 482 may each be made of fiberglass.

15 The two tabs 416 are configured to receive the two poles 482 of the stand 460, and to support the large project bag 410 on the two poles 482. The poles 482 may be made from fiberglass or other durable material. The stand 460 enables the large bag 410 to supported therefrom with the top open so that a user can access items from the bag 410 in its open position. As descirbed above, the large bag 410 may include snaps 422 and 424 placed at the outside, bottom corners of the bag 410, configured for snapping together. When the snaps 422 and 424 are snapped together, a base

is formed for the bag 410 to sit upright, with or without the stand 460. This also allows the user to release the snaps 422 and 424, providing additional storage or carrying space in the bag 410, or for the user to fold the bag 410 flat when empty and not in use.

The small project bag 450 does not have a snap at the bottom corners of the bag 450, nor does it have tabs. The small bag 450 is not configured to be placed on the stand 460. The small project bag 450 uses the same type of light steel concave metal closure mechanism 452. The small bag 450 can be used on its own or can be used to carry items and be placed inside the large project bag 410.

The stand 460 is made from two pieces of wood or other appropriate material 462 and 470. The two pieces of wood 462 and 470 are attached to each other in such a way that they rotate to stack on top of each other for convenient storage and/or carrying in the large project bag 410. When rotated outward, they form a 't' shape, creating a sturdy stand for the large project bag. This 't' shape prevents the large project bag 410 from tipping over. The top piece of wood 470 is rectangular shaped with a hole 472 drilled into the wood toward each edge and a hole 474 drilled in the center. The holes 472 receive poles 482 made of fiblerglass or the like, which can be attached to the large project bag 410. The hole 474 receives a fastening

device 480 to pivotally fasten the two pieces of wood 462 and 470 together. There are two smaller pieces of wood 476 integrally formed with and/or mounted underneath the top piece of wood 470, at opposite ends, which give the top piece of wood 470 height. This additional height allows the second piece of wood 462 to easily rotate underneath the top piece of wood 470 (allowing the user to remove the poles 482 from the large project bag 410 and the stand 460, rotate the base 462 of the stand 460 in to a closed position, and place all parts of the stand 460 in the project bag 410). The bottom piece of wood 462 (or other material) sits flush with the floor or other surface but is curved on the edges. This curvature allows the lower piece of wood 462 to rotate underneath the top piece of wood 470, forming one rectangular block of wood which locks into place.

The large project bag 410 may have a snap at the bottom which creates a base that allows the bag 410 to stand alone and also provides a base for the bag 410 when it sits on the stand 460. The user can unsnap the snap for additional space in the bag 410 if they choose. The large project bag 410 is also unique in the way it attaches to the stand 460, allowing the user to keep the bag 410 open to work from if they choose.

Both the large project bag 410 and the small project bag 450 use a concave, light steel type of metal for their closure mechanisms 420 and 452. These closure mechanisms 420 and 452 are

easy to open and close, but hold the contents of the bags 410 and 450 securely in the bags 410 and 450 if they are turned upside down. Additionally, this unique type of metal closure mechanism provides the ideal tension for knitters, crocheters, and other crafters who want to feed their yarn or thread through the closure with even tension.

The stand 460 is unique in the way it uses removable rods 482 to hold the bag 410 onto the stand 460, and in the way it rotates to form one compact, rectangular base. Both of these unique features make the project bag kit 400 easily portable and easy to set up and use.

It is to be understood that the present invention is not limited to the embodiments described above, but encompasses any and all embodiments within the scope of the following claims.